

# PREAMBLE

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## **I. TEXT OF THE PREAMBLE**

The Governments of the COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA, the KINGDOM OF BELGIUM, the UNITED STATES OF BRAZIL, BURMA, CANADA, CEYLON, the REPUBLIC OF CHILE, the REPUBLIC OF CHINA, the REPUBLIC OF CUBA, the CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC, the FRENCH REPUBLIC, INDIA, LEBANON, the GRAND-DUCHY OF LUXEMBURG, the KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, the KINGDOM OF NORWAY, PAKISTAN, SOUTHERN RHODESIA, SYRIA, the UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA, the UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND, and the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Recognizing that their relations in the field of trade and economic endeavour should be conducted with a view to raising standards of living, ensuring full employment and a large and steadily growing volume of real income and effective demand, developing the full use of the resources of the world and expanding the production and exchange of goods,

Being desirous of contributing to these objectives by entering into reciprocal and mutually advantageous arrangements directed to the substantial reduction of tariffs and other barriers to trade and to the elimination of discriminatory treatment in international commerce,

Have through their Representatives agreed as follows:

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## **II. RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER ARTICLES**

References to “the objectives of this Agreement” appear in Articles XV:7(a), XVI:2, XVI:5, XVIII:1, XXIII:1, XXVIII*bis*:1, XXXVI:1, XXXVII:2(b)(iii), and the Notes Ad Articles XXIV:11 and XXXVI:1.

## **III. PREPARATORY WORK AND SUBSEQUENT MODIFICATIONS**

The material in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Preamble was inserted at Geneva, and reflects some of the objectives listed in Article 1 of the Geneva Draft Charter. The document references below pertain either to Article 1 of the Charter or to the Preamble of the General Agreement.

At the Review Session held in 1954-55, the CONTRACTING PARTIES agreed to incorporate the Preamble to the GATT, with some additions, in the text of Part I of the Agreement as a new Article I entitled “Objectives.” However, this amendment was included in the Protocol Amending Part I and Articles XXIX and XXX of the

General Agreement, which failed to gain the requisite unanimous approval and was abandoned on 31 December 1967.<sup>1</sup> The text of the new Article I would have been as follows:

- “1. The contracting parties recognize that their relations in the field of trade and economic endeavour should be conducted with a view to raising standards of living, ensuring full employment and a large and steadily growing volume of real income and effective demand, developing the full use of the resources of the world and expanding the production and exchange of goods, and promoting the progressive development of the economies of all the contracting parties.
- “2. The contracting parties desire to contribute to these objectives through this Agreement by entering into reciprocal and mutually advantageous arrangements directed to the substantial reduction of tariffs and other barriers to trade and to the elimination of discriminatory treatment in international commerce.”

#### IV. RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

##### *New York*

Discussion: EPCT/C.6/23, 90, 91  
 EPCT/C.6/31, 57, 83  
 Reports: EPCT/34  
 Other: EPCT/C.6/78, 99+Corr.1  
 EPCT/C.6/W/1, 2, 84

##### *Review Session*

Discussion: SR.9/18, 19, 47  
 Reports: W.9/164, 197, 198, 236  
 Other: L/276, W.9/27

##### *Geneva*

Discussion: EPCT/EC/PV.2/22  
 EPCT/B/SR/20, 21, 29  
 EPCT/TAC/PV/26  
 Reports: EPCT/139+Corr.1, 159,  
 180+Corr.1-9, 186+Corr.1  
 EPCT/135, 189, 196, 211,  
 214/Add.1/Rev.1  
 Other: EPCT/W/123, 176, 234, 236, 238

<sup>1</sup>15S/65.